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Birmingham Doctor Is Arrestd In Discovery of Weapons Cache

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Special to The New York Times

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., Dec. 2—Dr. Gus. J. Prosch Jr., a 40-year-old Birmingham physician, was released on $10,000 bond today after Federal investigators had charged him with the possession of illegal weapons.

More than 30 tons of guns, ammunition and dynamite raids Sunday and yesterday were confiscated by county and Federal officers in the Birmingham area. The officers said that the firearms had been traced to Dr. Prosch.

Dr. Prosch refused to comment at his arraignment this morning. And officials refused to speculate as to why the guns were collected in the Birmingham area.

Federal investigators said they had traced a number of the weapons to gun dealers in four states—Alabama, Mississippi, Florida and Tennssee—but had not yet searched the dealers records to see which individuals had brought them.

The officers said that a complete inventory had not been made but that several hundred weapons, including an 80-mm. mortar, were seized. At least 15 of the guns were automatics. The Gun Control Act of 1968 prohibits private ownership of such weapons.

Sheriff Melvin Bailey of Jefferson County said Sunday that it was "obvious" that a trailer load of weapons found near Bessemer, a Birmingham suburb, was intended to be used by "leftist revolutionaries." Today, the sheriff said he did not know whether the guns were intended for distribution to "rightists or leftists" but that it still appeared they were destined for revolutionaries.

In recent months, Dr. Prosch has operated a clinic for the treatment of the obese. Early last month, he reported to the police department that more than 100,000 drugs used to depress appetites had been stolen.

Agents of the Treasury Department's Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms Division declined to say how they were led to Dr. Prosch. But it was learned that more than one box of munitions found in the trailer had Dr. Prosch's address on them.

The Federal agents raided Dr. Prosch's home in suburban Birmingham late yesterday. They said they had found a quantity of arms and ammunition there and at a house in South Birmingham that had been rented by Dr. Prosch.

At least two automatic pistols confiscated at Dr. Prosch's home had been sold through the Aero-Marine Supply Company, the Birmingham gun store where James Earl Ray bought the rifle that was left at the scene of the murder of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

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